

BECON

3/6/2026

Good morning, here is the BECON for March 6th, 2026.

We will have students from Central Catholic High School here this month. We have our first 3 students in today to marvel us with everything they are up to in school and give us a speech on one of the topics of the day. In short, they all did great, with humor and an abundance of confidence. The students today were:

Sarah Spini – her parents couldn't come as they were at work.

Rocky Benson – accompanied by his mom, Tina

Teaghan Vaira – accompanied by her parents, Jason and Suzanne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We had a lot of announcements today. Here they are:

1. This from our illustrious and often awarded Treasurer, Ed Kaufman

“Hello All. I'm sending out these reports (attached to the Becon) since I haven't been able to send out statements for a while. They show if you have balance due or have a credit balance. If your name isn't showing you don't owe or have a credit balance. Please let me know if you have any questions or need copies of invoices. Please check your records to see if maybe a payment was missed or if there may be something missed on my end. Thanks very much all. We could use the cash flow if by chance you're behind. I'll be glad to with you if need be.”

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REPORTS.

2. Tony Parish asked me to remind everyone of the Homesteaders Tax Credit for 2026. Please see the attached flyer. THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MARCH 20TH, 2026.
3. Dave Staton announced through his proxy, who was yours truly, that the Lockwood High School will rename the Performing Arts Center at the school in honor of his and Gwen's son, Quentin. This honor was unanimously approved by the LHS board. The actual dedication will be on March 18th, 2026 at 2:30pm. The center will be named the “Q Staton Performing Arts Center”.
4. Shawnee gave us several announcements:
 - a. Jersey Mike's on Grand and 17th will hold a fundraiser for us from April 24th-28th at their location. We will need to be responsible for handing out coupons for a free regular sub to everyone we can. The sandwich eater will need to present the coupon when they order their sandwich. We will then get a \$5 donation from Jersey Mike's for every coupon they receive.
 - b. If you want to be in the March Madness bracket challenge let Shawnee know as soon as possible. The cost is \$20. Get your money into her before the end of next week. Selection Sunday is on March 15th.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

April 4th – Big Air Bash

Upcoming Events

March 14th – St. Patrick's Parade. Downtown

March 18th at 2:30pm - Q Staton Performing Arts Center Dedication. Lockwood High School

April 1st - Meadowlark Brewing Pint Night

April 24-28th – Jersey Mikes BEC fundraiser

- c. Meadowlark Brewing will have a Pint Night for the Yellowstone District of Exchange on April 1st. No foolin'. They will donate \$1 for each pint served.
 - d. Next Saturday is the St. Patrick's Parade. Rene Critelli is looking for people to carry flags. We only have a few as of this morning. Members, spouses, and kids can participate. Rene will send out information this week and time and meeting place. Please come and carry a flag.
 - e. There will be a METRA beer pouring event on April 4th. It is a Big Air Bash event. Should be on the schedule soon.
5. Bill Kennedy also had a few announcements.
- a. On April 1st there will be an Unattended Veterans ceremony at the National Veterans Cemetery in Laurel. This will start at noon.
 - b. Remember to mark your calendars for the upcoming Memorial Day ceremonies at the local cemeteries.
 - c. The third annual Family Tree Nurturing Center golf tourney will be on June 27th at Pryor Creek. Start time is 9am. Bill is looking for sponsors and teams. Please see him or call into the FTNC for more information.

NEW MEMBERS

We had (2) new members in attendance today. Both came to us from the recent member recruiting event last month. Both are with Marsh McLennan Insurance. They are: Heather Wagner and Angie Johnson. Welcome to the Club.

YOUTH of the YEAR

Craig Burke introduced the 3 Central High speakers that are in attendance. They are competing for a \$2500 scholarship and the opportunity to advance to district and national Exchange Club scholarship competitions.

First to speak was Teaghan Vaira. She spoke about the use of cell phones in everyone's life. She talked about the first thing she and all her friends (as well as a large percentage of our club members) do each morning is to look at their phone. Also talked about looking the successes of everyone she knows on social media but never the struggles. Our worth is our integrity, how we treat others, and overcome obstacles. The important thing is who we become when the phones are off.

Teaghan will attend MSU next year. She is in numerous clubs like all of the Central students are and was co-captain of the Central swim team.

Next up was Rocky Benson. Rocky was diagnosed with high functioning autism when he was 2 years old. His parents believed him and pushed him to attend school with the other kids in the district. He ended up going to Central and found his place. In fact, he was voted Homecoming King this past fall. After years of speech therapy and working on his communication skills, he spoke at a recent Pediatric conference on dealing with autism.

Rocky will go to Rocky Mountain College next school year. He is in National Honor Society and will play tennis this spring for Central.

Sarah Spini closed the slate of speakers today. She joked that she should have gone first. But she did great. Sarah spoke about leadership. She is the other co-captain on the swim team. She talked about encouraging swimmers who were struggling or not putting the effort. She also

spoke about her father who was the Billings Fire Marshall for many years. While watching his daughter swim with the Billings Aquatic Club at the Rocky pool, he realized that it was unsafe and got the pool closed. There was only one exit, and he was right and faced a lot of criticism. Sarah told us that leaders are constantly watched with how they react to the good and bad situations. If you lose your composure, the situation only gets worse.

Sarah will also attend MSU and go into nursing. Along with swimming, she has also does triathlons.

That's it for this week. See you on Friday the 13th for the second time this year.

